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SKYBOUND

93

THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
RYAN OTTLEY
CORY WALKER
CLIFF RATHBURN
JOHN RAUCH



image COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER pages 7-20

CORY WALKER

PENCILER & INKER pages 1-6

CLIFF RATHBURN

INKER pages 7-20

JOHN RAUCH

COLORIST

RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

SINA GRACE

EDITOR

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY, CORY WALKER & JOHN RAUCH

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

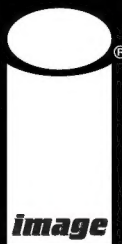


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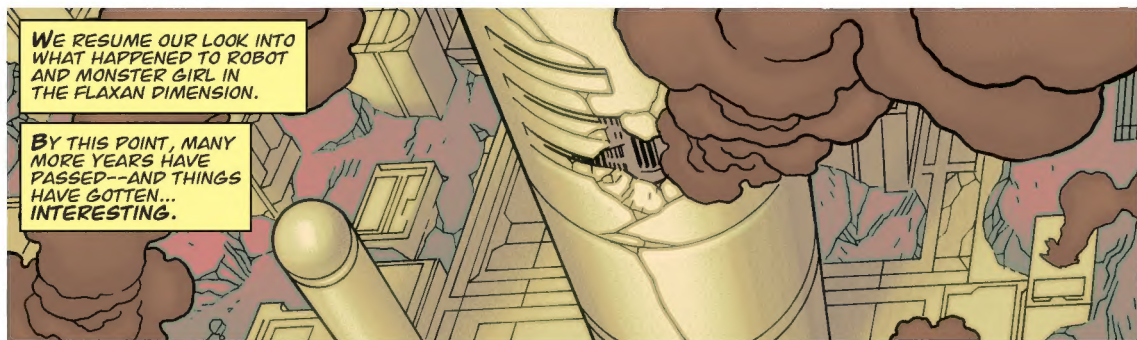


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WE RESUME OUR LOOK INTO WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBOT AND MONSTER GIRL IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION.

BY THIS POINT, MANY MORE YEARS HAVE PASSED--AND THINGS HAVE GOTTEN... INTERESTING.



(YOU HAVE DISRUPTED MY ROYAL CHAMBERS, DAMAGED THE GREAT HALLS OF TRUNG AND CORRUPTED A CHAMPION OF OUR ARENA THAT HAS ENTERTAINED ME SINCE I WAS A BOY.)

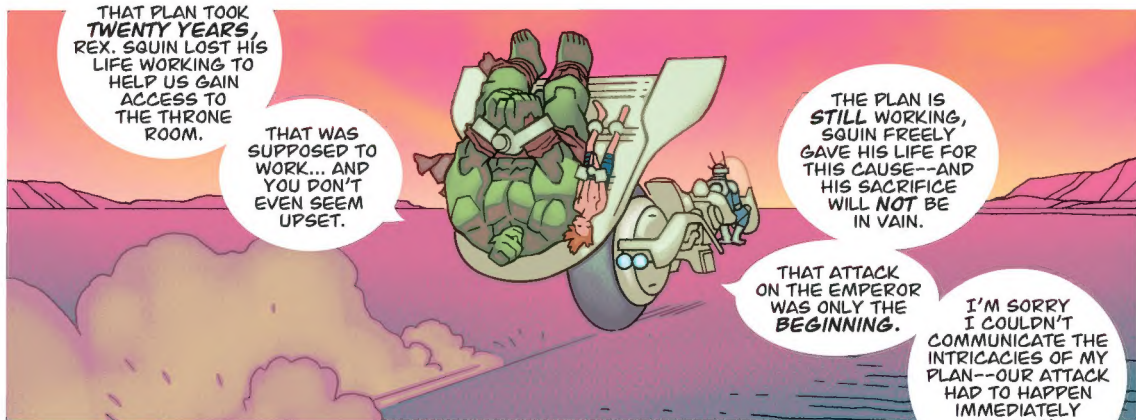
(I HAVE A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT SET ASIDE JUST FOR YOU--EARTH MAN!)

ZZAPKT!



WELL...

...THIS COULD HAVE GONE BETTER.



THAT PLAN TOOK **TWENTY YEARS**, REX. SQUIN LOST HIS LIFE WORKING TO HELP US GAIN ACCESS TO THE THRONE ROOM.

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK... AND YOU DON'T EVEN SEEM UPSET.

THE PLAN IS **STILL WORKING**, SQUIN FREELY GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THIS CAUSE--AND HIS SACRIFICE WILL NOT BE IN VAIN.

THAT ATTACK ON THE EMPEROR WAS ONLY THE **BEGINNING**.

I'M SORRY I COULDN'T COMMUNICATE THE INTRICACIES OF MY PLAN--OUR ATTACK HAD TO HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER I'D LOCATED YOU.



WHEN THEY DISCOVERED US IN YOUR CELL FOUR YEARS AGO--I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. SQUIN AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO FIND YOU EVER SINCE.

WHILE DOING THAT, HE TAUGHT ME **SO MUCH** ABOUT THE FLAXAN WORLD.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO? WHY THEY INVADE SO MANY OTHER DIMENSIONS--LIKE HOW THEY'VE REPEATEDLY ATTEMPTED TO INVADE OURS?

THEY'RE HARVESTING **SLAVES**. IT'S HARD FOR US TO RECOGNIZE, BUT ALL THE VARIOUS LIFE-FORMS WE'VE SEEN--THEY'RE FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS.

THE FLAXANS ARE A WARRIOR RACE, THEY HAVE ONLY SOLDIERS. ALL OTHER TASKS ARE PERFORMED BY SLAVES.

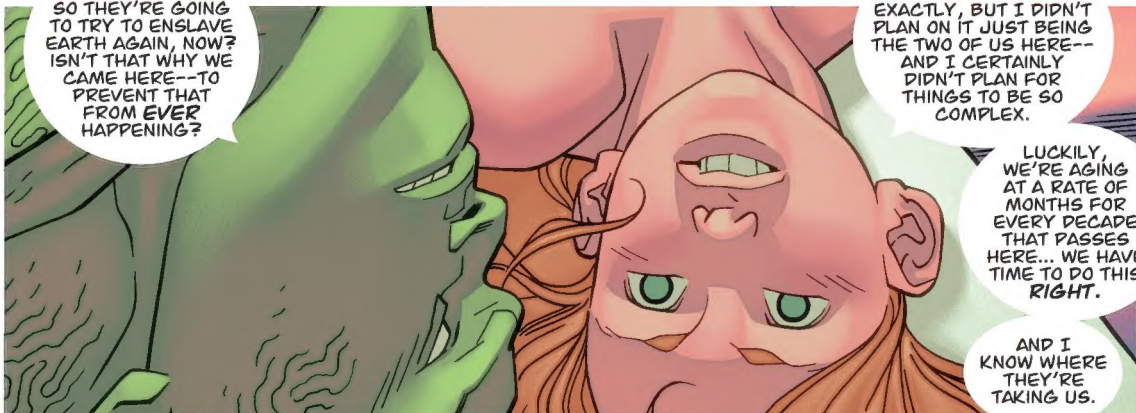


SO THEY'RE GOING TO TRY TO ENSLAVE EARTH AGAIN, NOW? ISN'T THAT WHY WE CAME HERE--TO PREVENT THAT FROM **EVER** HAPPENING?

EXACTLY, BUT I DIDN'T PLAN ON IT JUST BEING THE TWO OF US HERE--AND I CERTAINLY DIDN'T PLAN FOR THINGS TO BE SO COMPLEX.

LUCKILY, WE'RE AGING AT A RATE OF MONTHS FOR EVERY DECADE THAT PASSES HERE... WE HAVE TIME TO DO THIS **RIGHT**.

AND I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE TAKING US.



WHEN THEY HARVEST SLAVES FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, IT IS USUALLY DONE WITH THE SET PURPOSE THAT THE SLAVES WILL BE USED FOR ALREADY IN MIND.

THE VERY FIRST TIME THEY INVAPED OUR DIMENSION, AND WERE THWARTED, THEY NEEDED THE POPULATION OF EARTH TO WORK IN THEIR MINERAL MINES.

WHEN THEY WERE STOPPED, IT WAS THE WORK OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, INVINCIBLE'S FATHER, **OMNI-MAN**. A PLAN WAS CONCEIVED AND CARRIED OUT TO BRING HIM INTO THE FLAXAN DIMENSION, TO REMOVE HIM FROM THE EQUATION.*

HERE HE IS KNOWN AS **THE DESTROYER**.

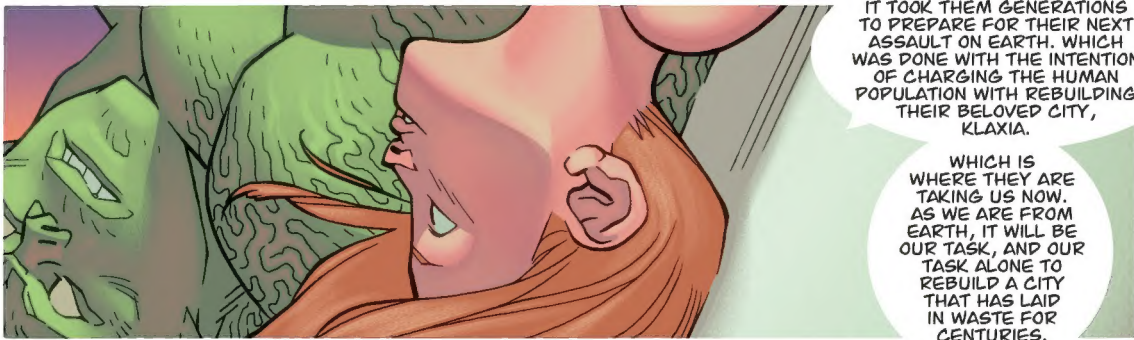
*ISSUE 3.

HE WAS HELD CAPTIVE FOR A TIME. THEY'D DEVISED SOME WAY TO INHIBIT HIS NATURAL ABILITIES. BUT HIS CAPTIVITY DID NOT LAST.

TO SAY THEIR PLAN BACKFIRED ON THEM WOULD BE A MASSIVE UNDERSTATEMENT.

IN THE END, THE WAR THEY FOUGHT AGAINST ONE MAN LASTED NEARLY A YEAR IN THIS DIMENSION.

AS A RESULT, THE FLAXANS' EMPIRE WAS IN SHAMBLES, AND KLAXIA, THE CROWN CITY OF THEIR CIVILIZATION, WAS DESTROYED.



IT TOOK THEM GENERATIONS TO PREPARE FOR THEIR NEXT ASSAULT ON EARTH. WHICH WAS DONE WITH THE INTENTION OF CHARGING THE HUMAN POPULATION WITH REBUILDING THEIR BELOVED CITY, KLAXIA.

WHICH IS WHERE THEY ARE TAKING US NOW. AS WE ARE FROM EARTH, IT WILL BE OUR TASK, AND OUR TASK ALONE TO REBUILD A CITY THAT HAS LAID IN WASTE FOR CENTURIES.



SO WE REBUILD A CITY FOR THEM? HOW IS THAT PART OF OUR PLAN-- HOW DOES THAT HELP US?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS THAT MADE YOU LESS SMART?

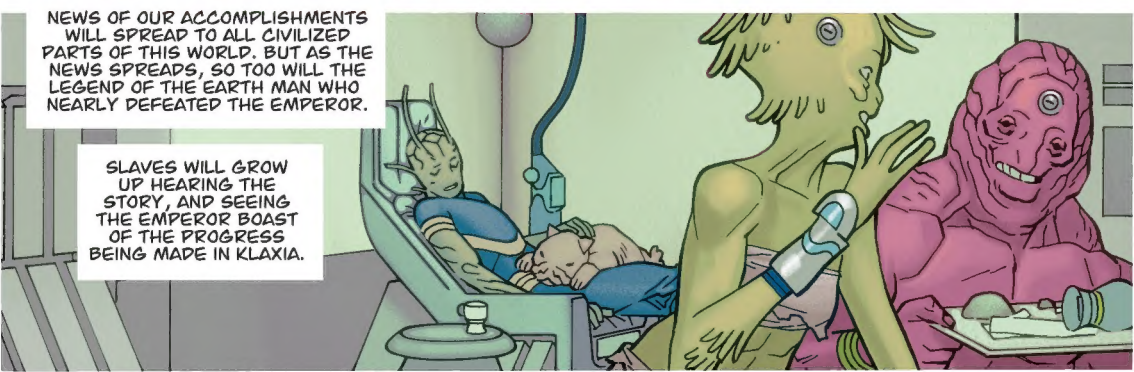
YOU'RE NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TIME. ONLY A MATTER OF WEEKS HAS PASSED ON EARTH IN OUR DECADES ON THIS WORLD... THIS WILL NOT BE EASY... IT WILL TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME.

BUT TIME IS ON OUR SIDE.



THEY DO NOT EXPECT US TO ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN REBUILDING THEIR CITY. IT IS MEANT ONLY AS PUNISHMENT.

WE WILL BE WATCHED EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY DAY--BUT EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL START TO NOTICE THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE.



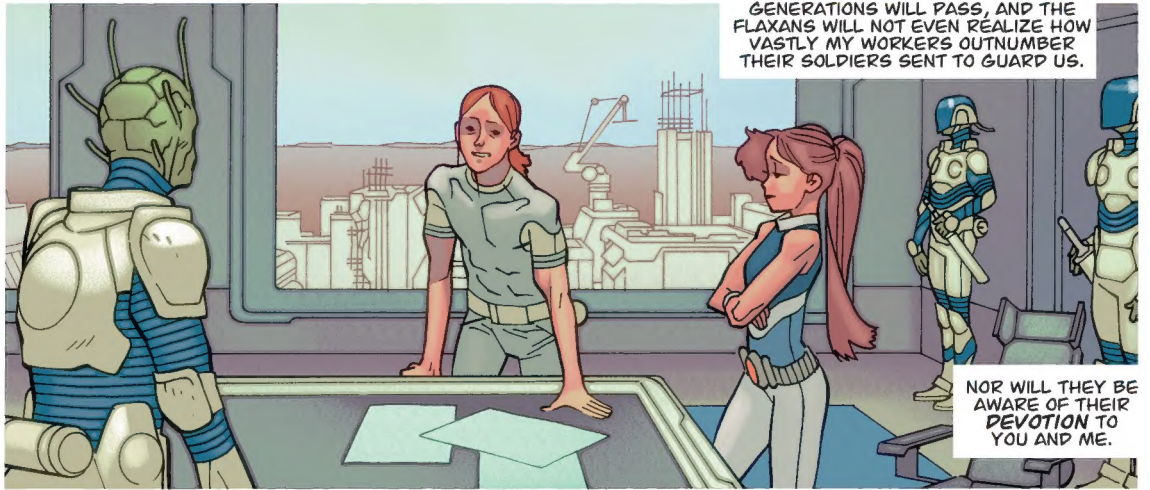
NEWS OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL SPREAD TO ALL CIVILIZED PARTS OF THIS WORLD. BUT AS THE NEWS SPREADS, SO TOO WILL THE LEGEND OF THE EARTH MAN WHO NEARLY DEFEATED THE EMPEROR.

SLAVES WILL GROW UP HEARING THE STORY, AND SEEING THE EMPEROR BOAST OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN KLAXIA.



IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF YEARS BEFORE THE PROJECT IS ACTUALLY TAKEN SERIOUSLY, AND WE'RE SENT HUNDREDS OF WORKERS TO AID IN OUR TASK.

WORKERS THAT KNOW OF OUR FEAT, STORMING THE EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM. WORKERS WITH NO LOVE FOR THE FLAXAN EMPIRE.



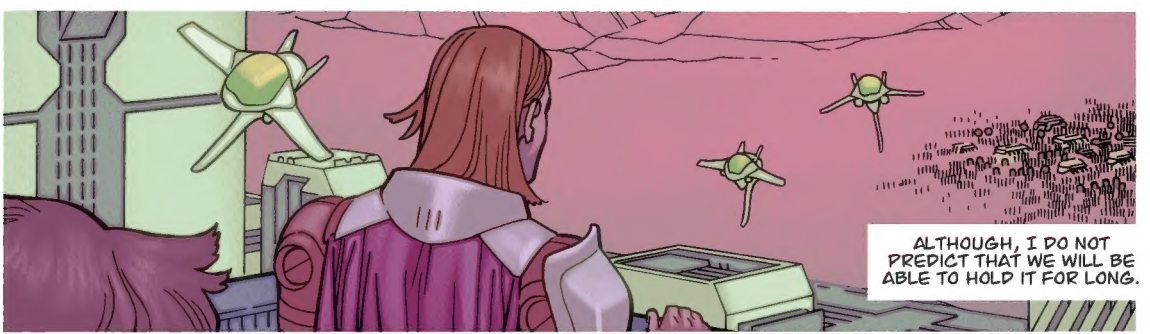
GENERATIONS WILL PASS, AND THE FLAXANS WILL NOT EVEN REALIZE HOW VASTLY MY WORKERS OUTNUMBER THEIR SOLDIERS SENT TO GUARD US.

NOR WILL THEY BE AWARE OF THEIR DEVOTION TO YOU AND ME.



THE REVOLT WILL BE SWIFT.

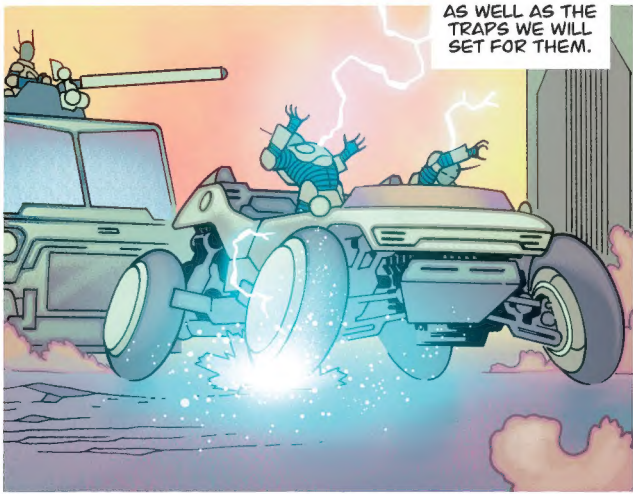
ON THE EVE OF THE COMPLETE RESTORATION OF KLAXIA-- WE WILL CONTROL THE CITY.



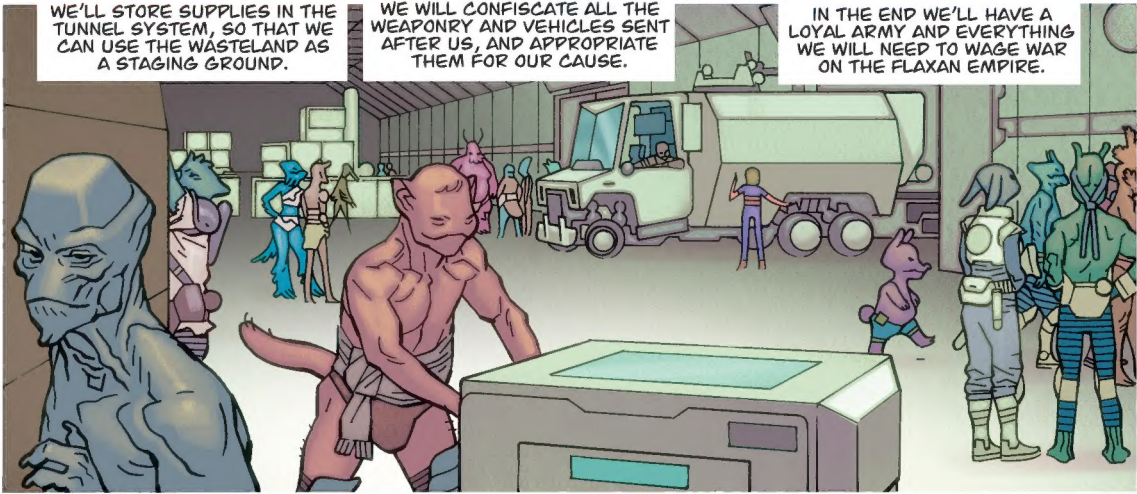
ALTHOUGH, I DO NOT PREDICT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD IT FOR LONG.



BUT THE FLAXAN ARMY
WILL BE UNAWARE OF
THE TUNNEL SYSTEM WE
WILL HAVE BUILT
UNDER THE CITY.



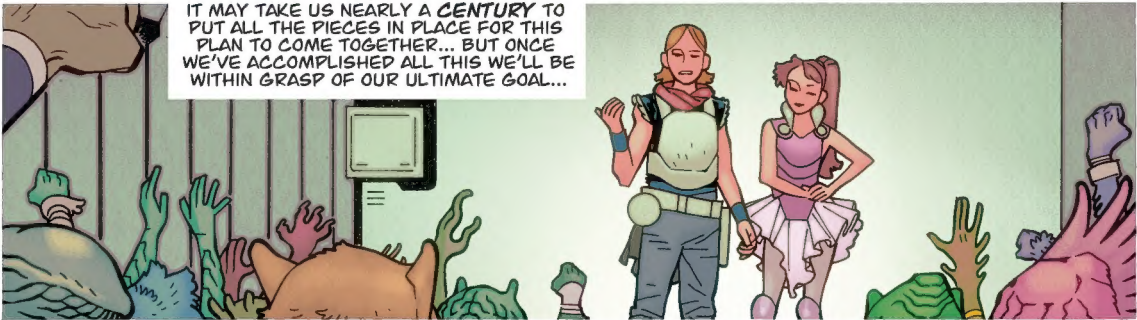
AS WELL AS THE
TRAPS WE WILL
SET FOR THEM.



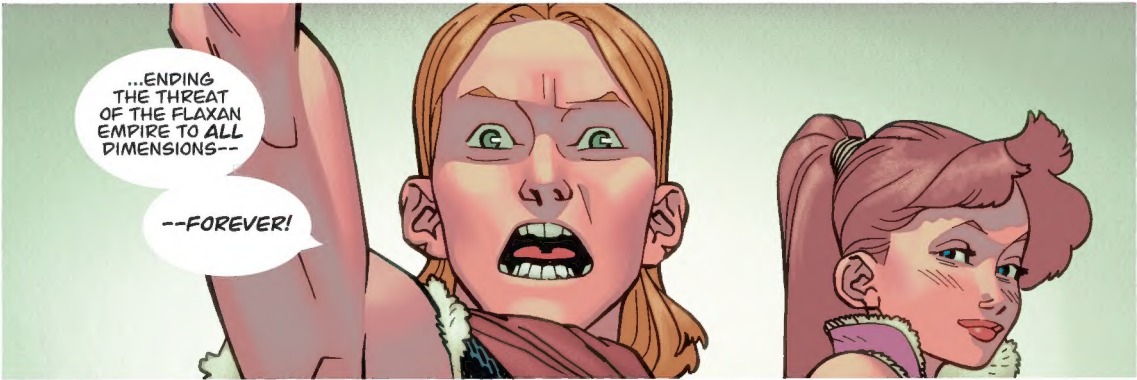
WE'LL STORE SUPPLIES IN THE
TUNNEL SYSTEM, SO THAT WE
CAN USE THE WASTELAND AS
A STAGING GROUND.

WE WILL CONFISCATE ALL THE
WEAPONRY AND VEHICLES SENT
AFTER US, AND APPROPRIATE
THEM FOR OUR CAUSE.

IN THE END WE'LL HAVE A
LOYAL ARMY AND EVERYTHING
WE WILL NEED TO WAGE WAR
ON THE FLAXAN EMPIRE.



IT MAY TAKE US NEARLY A CENTURY TO
PUT ALL THE PIECES IN PLACE FOR THIS
PLAN TO COME TOGETHER... BUT ONCE
WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED ALL THIS WE'LL BE
WITHIN GRASP OF OUR ULTIMATE GOAL...



...ENDING
THE THREAT
OF THE FLAXAN
EMPIRE TO ALL
DIMENSIONS---

--FOREVER!

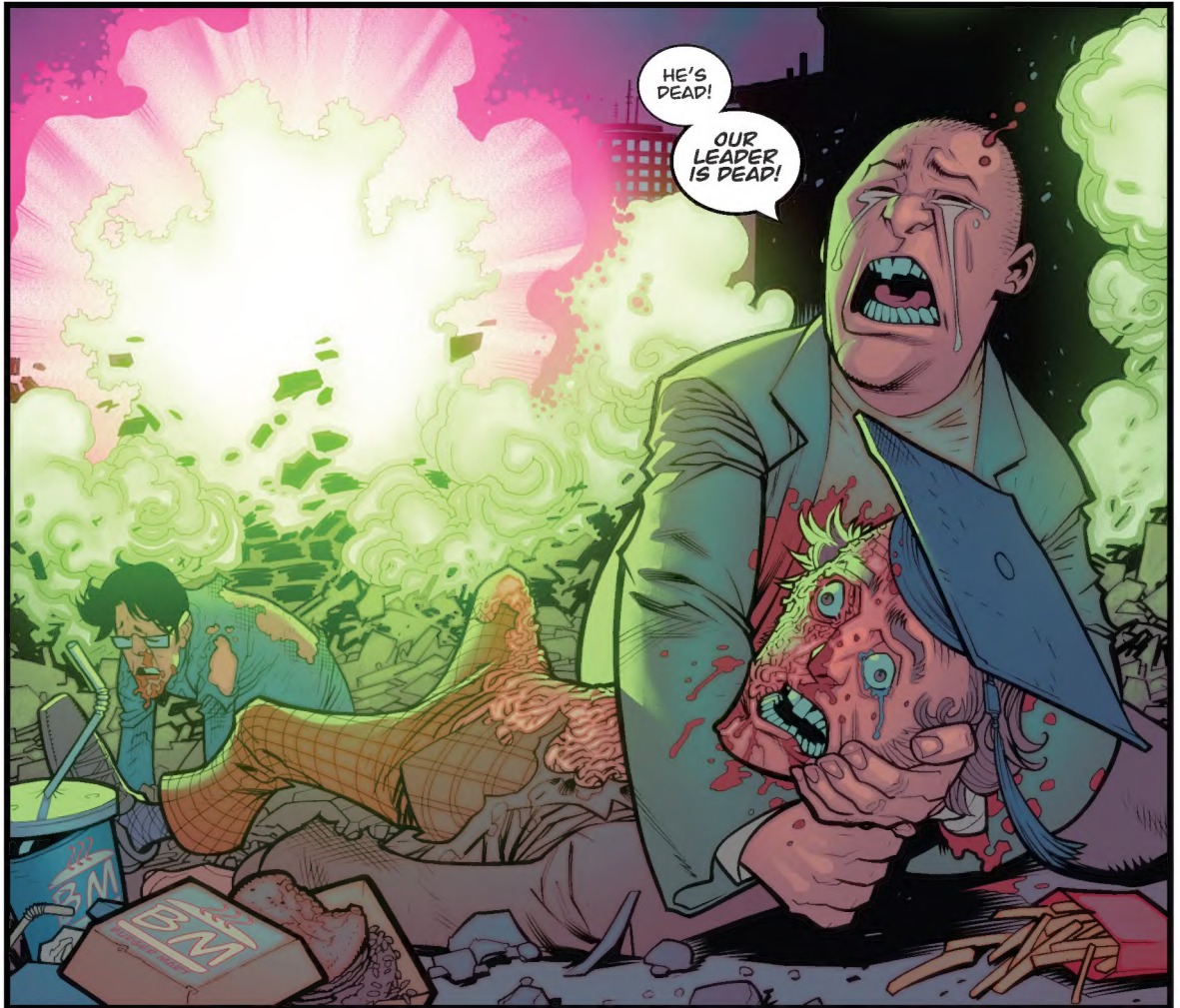
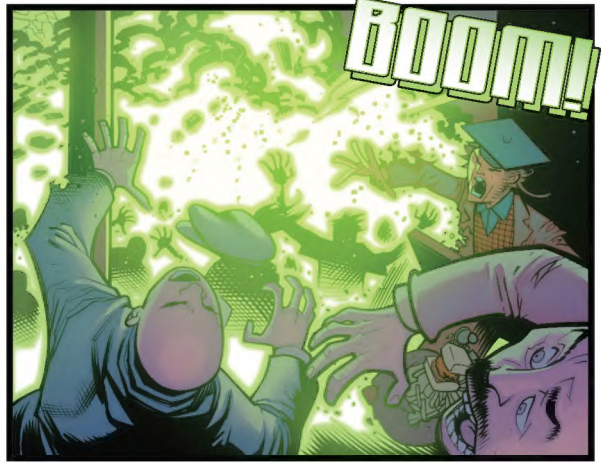


BACK ON EARTH,
PRESENT DAY.

LONDON.

THEY CALL US A CULT!
IF THIS BE THE CULT OF
THE TRUTH--THEN I
SAY FINE--WE ARE
A CULT!

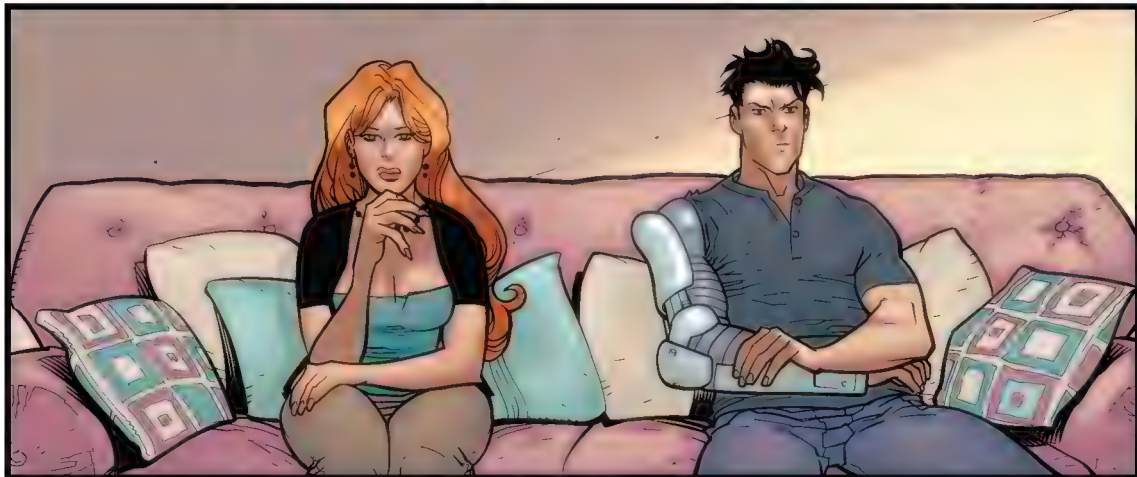
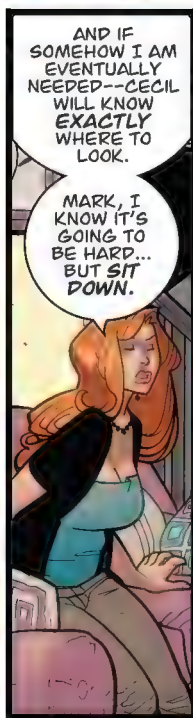
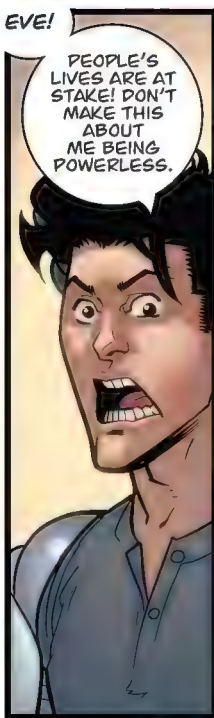
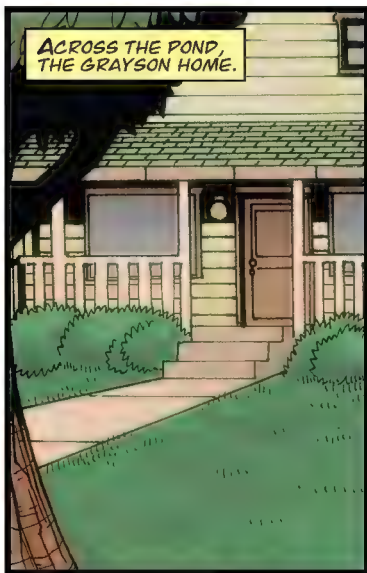
THE CULT OF THE SKY GOD--
THE ONE WHO BESTOWED UPON
ME THE CAP OF LEADERSHIP,
THAT BROUGHT US ALL
TOGETH--



HE'S
DEAD!

OUR
LEADER
IS DEAD!







I'M SORRY, GUYS... I'VE GOT A MEETING AT THIS GALLERY AND I, UM... NEED TO GO.



ARE YOU **SERIOUS?**! WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LONDON? YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO?

WE'LL PROBABLY SEE YOUR BROTHER ON TV! CANCEL IT.

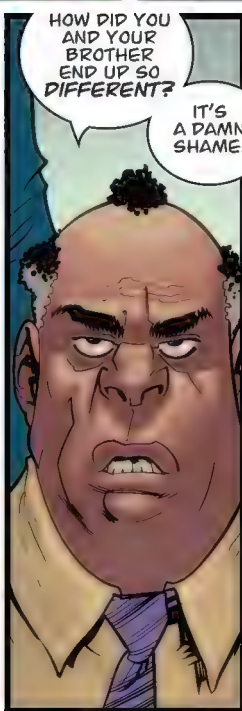
I'VE GOTTA MAKE A LIVING, MOM.

THIS GALLERY OPENING ISN'T FOR MONTHS, I CAN'T BLOW IT BY SKIPPING THIS MEETING.



HOW DID YOU AND YOUR BROTHER END UP SO DIFFERENT?

IT'S A DAMN SHAME.



THE REAL SHAME IS THAT YOU--!



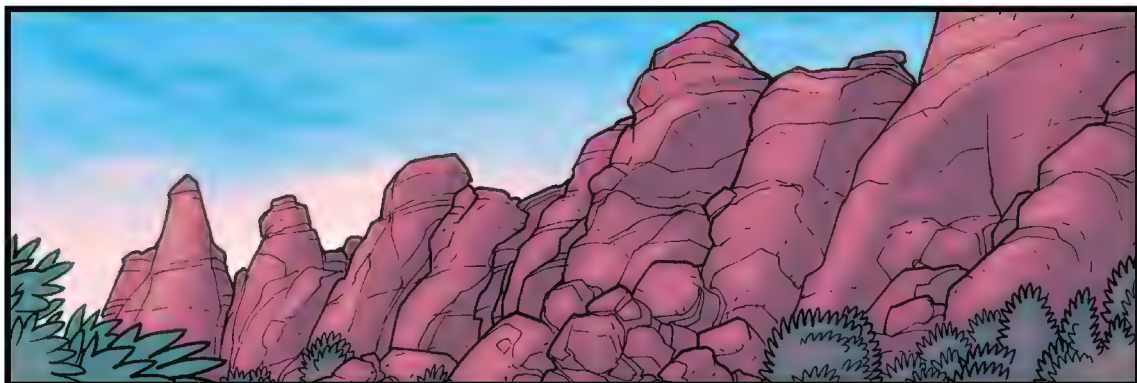
OKAY, I NEED TO BE GOING NOW. DON'T GET TOO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S ON THE TV, IT'S HALF A WORLD AWAY.



I HEAR TYRONE HAS A NEW COSTUME, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR IT.

BYE.



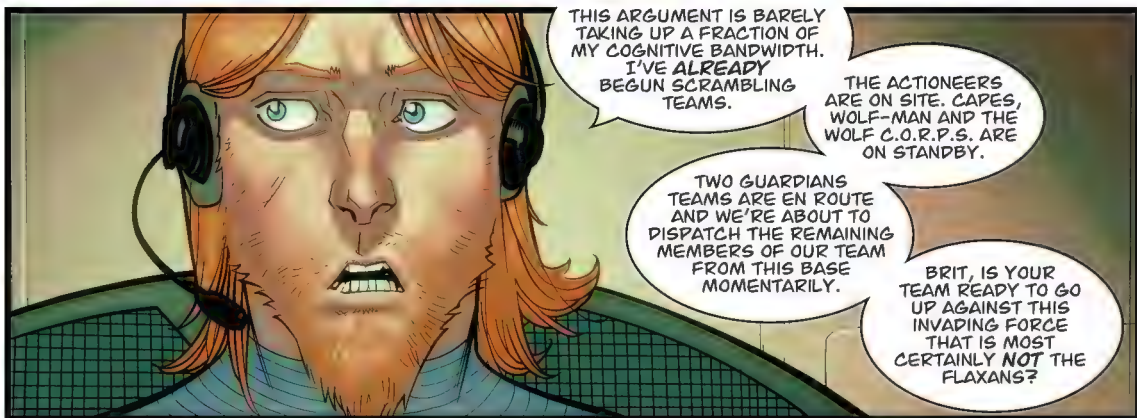


IT'S NOT THE FLAXANS. THERE IS NO WAY. THAT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE.

IT'S SOMEONE ELSE. ANOTHER FORCE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION, USING SIMILAR ARMOR... IT CAN'T BE THE FLAXANS.



WELL, IT SURE AS HELL LOOKS LIKE IT'S THEM! SO STOP ARGUING WITH ME AND START SCRAMBLING TEAMS!



THIS ARGUMENT IS BARELY TAKING UP A FRACTION OF MY COGNITIVE BANDWIDTH. I'VE ALREADY BEGUN SCRAMBLING TEAMS.

THE ACTIONEERS ARE ON SITE. CAPES, WOLF-MAN AND THE WOLF C.O.R.P.S. ARE ON STANDBY.

TWO GUARDIANS TEAMS ARE EN ROUTE AND WE'RE ABOUT TO DISPATCH THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM FROM THIS BASE MOMENTARILY.

BRIT, IS YOUR TEAM READY TO GO UP AGAINST THIS INVADING FORCE THAT IS MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE FLAXANS?



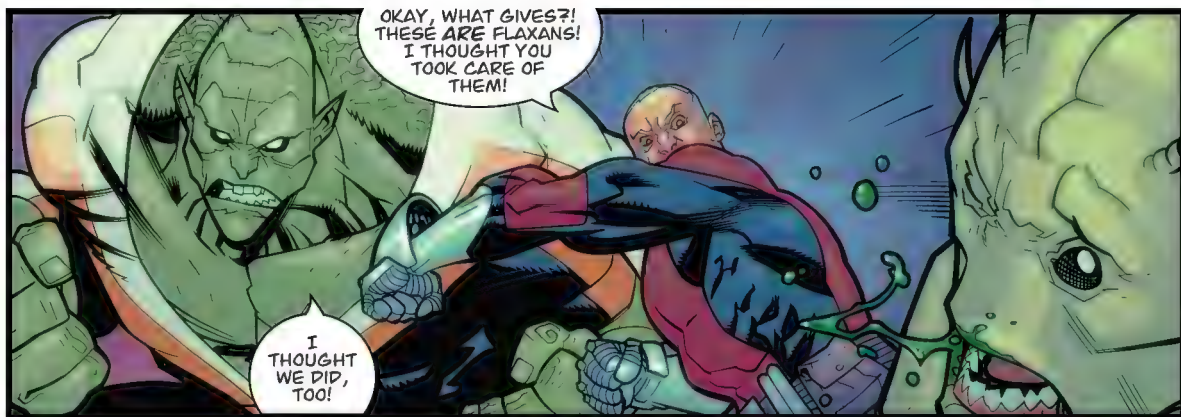
AFFIRMATIVE.

SEND US IN, ROBOT.



WE NOW
JOIN SHEER
PANDEMONIUM
ALREADY IN
PROGRESS!

WOW!



OKAY, WHAT GIVES?
THESE ARE FLAXANS!
I THOUGHT YOU
TOOK CARE OF
THEM!

I
THOUGHT
WE DID,
TOO!



NO!

IT
CAN'T BE!
IT CAN'T
BE THE
FLAXANS! I
REFUSE
TO ACCEPT
THAT!

NOT
AFTER
WHAT WE
LIVED
THROUGH!



IF IT SHOOTS
LIKE A FLAXAN
AND TAKES A
KICK LIKE A
FLAXAN...

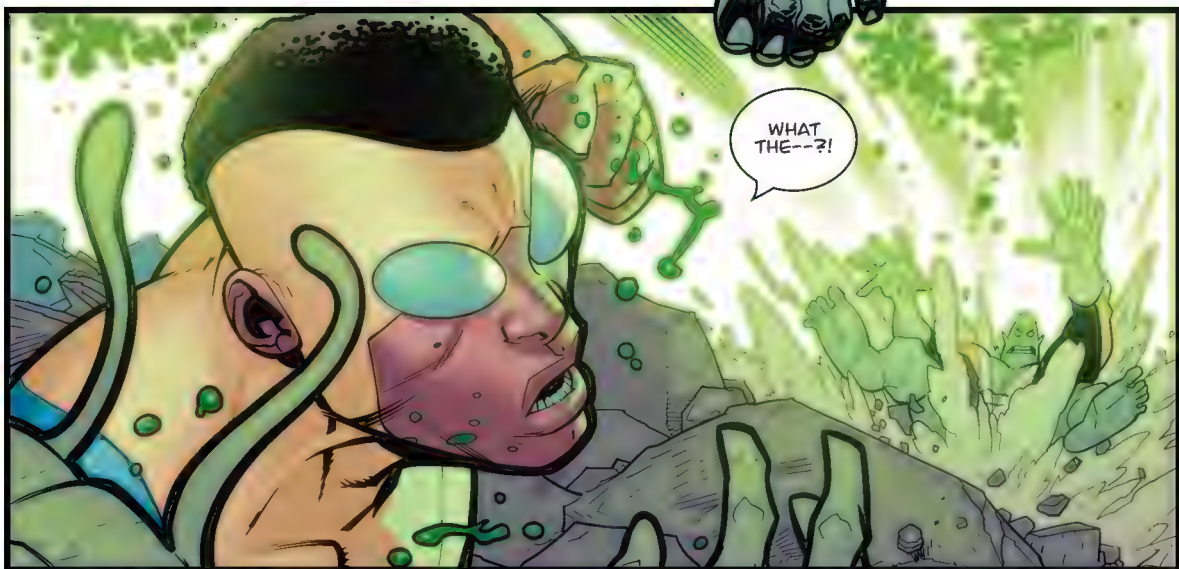


MAYBE IT'S FLAXANS
FROM A DIFFERENT
REALITY THAN THE
ONE WE VISITED--
COULD BE
ANYTHING.

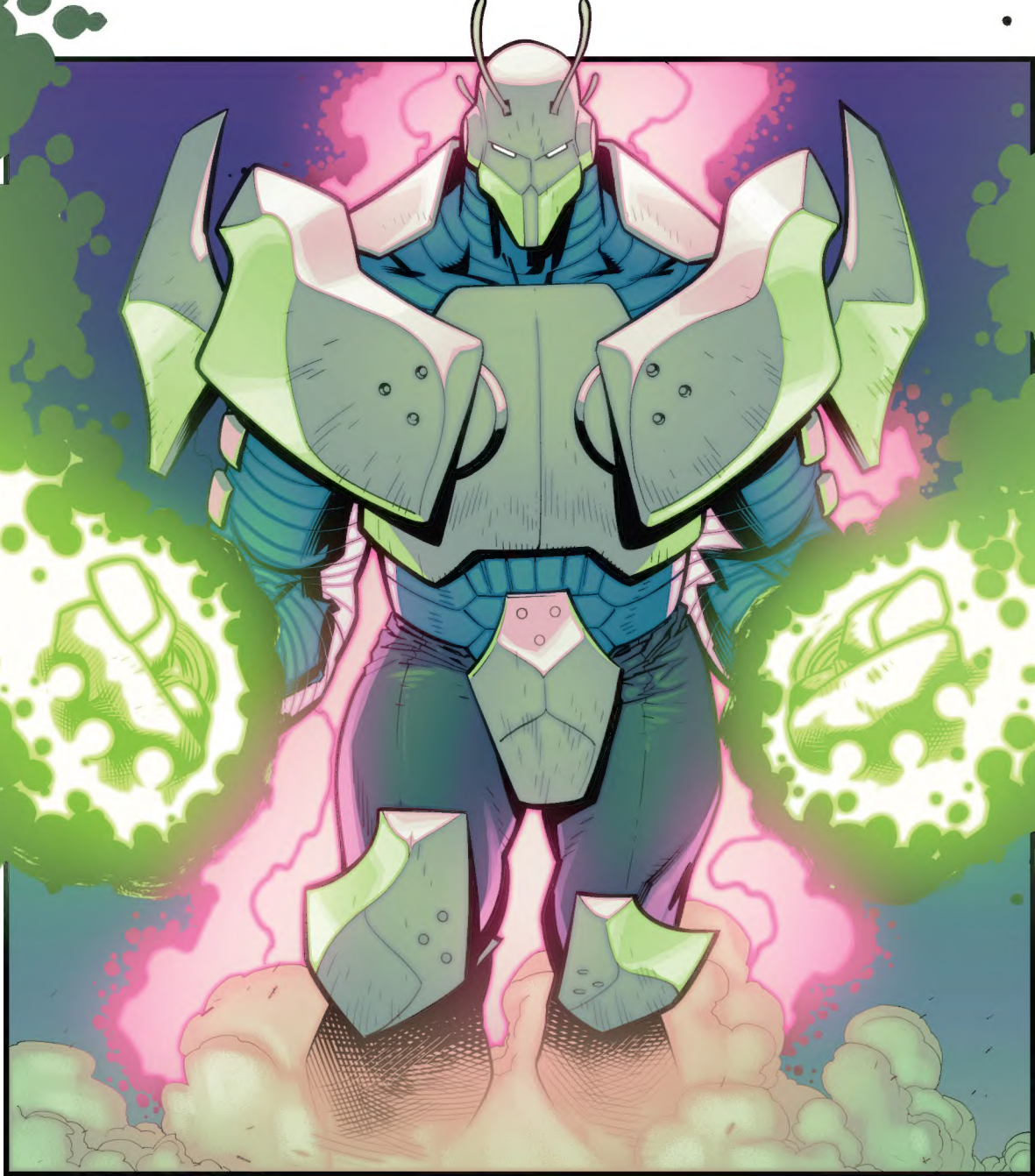
LESS
ARGUING--
MORE
FIGHTING!
LIVES ARE AT
STAKE!











WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE@SKYBOUND.COM

PEN INVINCIBLE PALS

Welcome back, Invincibles!

Editor Sina Grace here. If you think you've seen some senses-shattering action in this issue, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

We're gearing up for Comic-Con here at Skybound HQ, and it looks like that'll be a week from when this issue hits stands (right?). I'll see all of you in a week!

Well, Sina... let's be realistic. I doubt all the readers of this letters column will be attending Comic-Con. I'd wager on most, though.

Let's dive into the mail!

Dear INVINCIBLE Team,

Conventional wisdom suggests that when a dinosaur is featured on a comic book cover, the comic sells better than usual, so even if I wasn't a regular INVINCIBLE reader, I would have had to buy issue 91. Like most comics fans, I guess, I love seeing dinosaurs in my comics. INVINCIBLE doesn't just give you a dinosaur, but a super-intelligent, super-strong dinosaur by the name of Dinosaurus. No other dinosaur in comics (will all due respect to Mr. Kirkman's all-ages SUPER DINOSAUR comic, which is awesome) could possibly be as compelling as this genius super dinosaur anti-hero with an attitude, and I hope we get to see more of Dinosaurus in future issues. This letter, by the way, is an experiment to see if the frequency of the word "dinosaur" in a fan letter increases its chances of publication.

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, MO

Well, thank you for the vote of confidence! You haven't seen the last of Dinosaurus (or cool dinosaurs from Kirkman) yet!

Dinosaur!

Hey guys, just saying that Invincible is the only comic I've ever read all the issues of. I bought all 7 volumes over the course of a couple months after stopping reading it in 7th grade (I'm 20 now). But just a couple of questions: Is Ryan Ottley ever going to be at a convention? I can't seem to find him on any lists (like DragonCon). Got any big plans for issues #100? And one last thing, will you guys ever consider making any busts or figures of the characters?

Thanks a ton for the 91 issues of amazing reading. The whole team over there is the best.

-Luke Holt

Ryan does a lot of conventions a year. Follow his twitter - @RyanOttley for constant updates on his whereabouts!

Issue 100- we'll have updates for you, but I can't share any of our thoughts quite yet! That's what press releases are for, silly!

It's going to be awesome. I can promise you that!

Hey Robert, Ryan, Cliff and John and Sina

Excuse me while I get the usual comic book letter crap out of the way. First time writer, I love your work. I've been reading and collecting the single issues of Invincible for about 7 years now. I'm only missing six issues (6-12, I refuse to buy online, just for that

feeling you get when you find one you need in the wild). It's hard to believe it's been that long. What's even harder to believe is the level of quality this book has maintained over the course of those years. There have been highs and lows but Invincible always offers something unique. I think what you guys are doing is great for the industry. Creator owned books are the future, and you guys are ushering in the new era. A book like this wouldn't work at the big two because of constantly changing writers, artists and editors. I live for Wednesdays when Invincible, Walking Dead, and Savage Dragon come out. The best books on the stands are all Image books. That's not something I thought I would say again. So thank you for all your hard work.

It's great that Image Comics has evolved with the changing trends and while it would be easy to give Robert the credit, I always like to say that Eric Stephenson's been one of the more influential figures in comics this past decade.

Eric has transformed Image Comics into what it's become today and the coolest thing about that is that this is only the beginning. I see huge things for the company and creator-owned comics in general in the coming years.

I wanted to ask you about time span in your books Robert. I'm sure it's been touched on and is discussed in detail in Savage Dragon, but how does time pass in Invincible? I ask because when I talk to people that read the trades of Invincible or Walking Dead compared to single issue readers the amount of time passing is perceived differently by everyone. I read the single issues so for me it seems like Mark has been Invincible for years. My girlfriend read my Invincible Library editions in about a week and she thought that the story took place in a much small amount of time. I understand why people wait for trades but I feel like the single issues are such a more rewarding read. It's like a marathon compared to a sprint. The waiting month to month makes the book feel bigger if that makes sense. So does time pass when we aren't reading and do you think the comic works better in single issue format?

Time passes a little more temperamentally than Dragon. There can be time lapses... Mark's been Invincible for years, but not for a whole decade (which is about we're approaching in terms of publication).

Your question kind of diverged into another topic entirely. Robert writes the comic to be read both ways. I love how the cliffhangers work month to month, but going by the trade is satisfying. It's apples and oranges.

What Sina said, basically. Savage Dragon was meant to progress in real time. So when the reader has aged 10 years, so has the character. I thought that was awesome... but super difficult and not without its own limitations. Time passes in Invincible, but at a varying pace. Invincible was off fighting the Viltrumite War for nearly a year, for instance... and there have been chunks of time passing at other points in the book as well.

I also had a quick question for Ryan. In my signed Invincible Library 3, the autograph page has Mark and Eve snuggling with a little heart above their heads. In mine Ryan filled in the heart with red sharpie and I was just wondering if he did that with all of them. That didn't sound so geeky in my head sorry.

From Ryan Ottley himself:

I didn't do it to all of them, just a few. Because I love you.

Ryan really stepped up his game the last few issues and the addition of John Rauch has been a dream come true. One of my

prized possessions is a double page spread of Invincible punching Conquest in space, Conquest smiling at him, and then spearing him I think it's from issue 62. I even got a free page when I bought it, thanks Ryan.

Heck yeah!

Also Brian K. Vaughn recently did an AMA on reddit and was wondering if you would ever do the same. There is a huge Walking Dead subreddit and Invincible is one of the most recommended comics on reddit comicbooks. I post as ManFromViltrum and always tell people Invincible is the best superhero comic on the stands.

Here's to Image in 2012, the last real comic book company
You guys are the Best.

Jason Wanvig

While reddit is a lot of fun, it's an incredibly time consuming process to take part in.

Someday... I have to say there are already things like Reddit and Facebook that have sort of passed me by on the internet... it makes me feel like an old man. I'm glad I got on twitter when I did... that's something I understand. I'll look into the reddit thing...

Hello there Sina Grace and Robert Kirkman! Charles here.

I'm going to be honest, I never even heard of your [Mr. Kirkman] name till I picked up an issue of Marvel Zombies. I thought your work was grand, even if it wasn't canonical. Then a friend of mine introduced me to The Walking Dead - and now I'm addicted to it. Then as I've read TWD, I got introduced to Invincible and oh boy - you know what you're doing man!

Anyway, I've got questions/statements now!

1-) How far are we into the story so far? How long has it been? It feels like Mark is way over 21 now but I might be wrong. How many years has it been [canonically]?

Wow, great fans think alike... Robert?

It's been... a few. Mark is... well... I'd have to sit down and figure it out. He turned 18 in issue 10... and since then... he's about 21, yeah.

2-) I actually like what you've done with Eve, the weight problem adds a realistic feel to her troubles. But I hope she goes back to being that sexy Eve again soon!

She was looking kind of sexy this issue, IMHO.

She looks sexy in every issue.

3-) What happened to Monster Girl and Rex/Robot? I have a feeling Rex caught Monster Girl with Multi-Paul(s)!... I sure as hell hope that's not true.

Answers answers answers coming up! Can I say it's definitely not because of Multi-Paul?

4-) I know you are planning to bring back Levy, but do you think he has a chance of remembering what ACTUALLY happened in the first place? That it was his own fault how he turned out like this? I have a feeling he's going to commit suicide

Kirkman?

You'll just have to wait and see.

5-) I loved your Marvel Team-Ups. Are you planning to do anything of the like in the future?

I have no plans to return to working at Marvel or any work for hire... ever... or until my career is in the toilet and I have to beg them for work to make ends meet. So if everything falls apart... I'd love to do more Marvel Team-Up, it was fun to work on that book... but I much prefer doing my own thing, and it's better for my career and it's way more fun.

And that's it. Thank you for bearing with me through these questions. It doesn't really matter if this doesn't make it to print,

even if I'd love it to.

With respect!

Charles Logan
Boston MA

Fans of Marvel Team-Ups should pick up the new Guarding the Globe series! It's all of your favorite heroes from Kirkman's universe, teaming up to defeat Earth's larger threats!

What Sina said! The book starts in SEPTEMBER! (we'll be running a preview in this very book, next issue, I think...)

Dear Robert Kirkman,

Ever since I discovered the first issue of Invincible on the Image website a couple years back and decided to buy the trade, Invincible has been my favorite comic book of all time, and soon Image my favorite publisher. I have also read all the spin-offs, and I have finally gone monthly with issue 79, meaning I'm now monthly on all of your titles! I'm very excited to read this every month, and I can't wait for volume 14 to catch me up to speed. I have two fanboy continuity questions, so please indulge me, and one more after those.

1) If Stronghold Penitentiary is in Chicago, then how does the Capes crew from New York always deal with the breakouts and inmates who escape?

Kirkman?

Magic.

2) Why was Martian Man able to fly but not the Shapemsmith?

Kirk...man?

Keep reading!

3) I heard about the Tech Jacket back-ups online, and I would really want to read a new series monthly, something which you said you want to do, but I don't want to also buy the trade just for the back-ups, so I'd have to go monthly for that. I was hoping you'd consider doing a Science Dog kind of single issue collection or an issue 0 collecting the backups before or if you do a new series, possibly re-releasing the original trade along with it. I heard the the story in them doesn't finish, possibly to lead in to a new series, so having the previous installment would be helpful.

The Tech Jacket V1 TPB is still in print and still available for order and would not need to be rereleased... just ask your retailer to order it for you.

We're figuring things out with Tech Jacket now... stay tuned!

Thanks for reading my question, and it would be awesome to get a letter printed in the book, and thanks for providing me with such great comics!

From,
Tony Soldo

We'll find a way to share the Tech Jacket back-ups when there's time for Tech Jacket to get his own series. In the meantime, we've already fulfilled your Science Dog request with a FANTASTIC oversized hardcover!

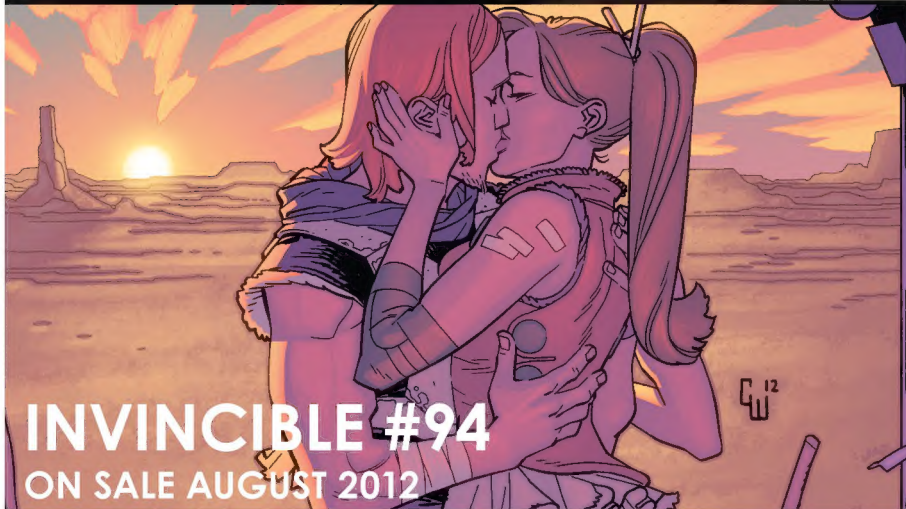
Okay, I've got to get ready for San Diego Comic-Con. We're gonna have a blast, you guys! Come back next month for more answers to your questions about Robot and Monster Girl. Also: Holy Hannah what's going on Earth!!

Your Invincible,
Sina Grace

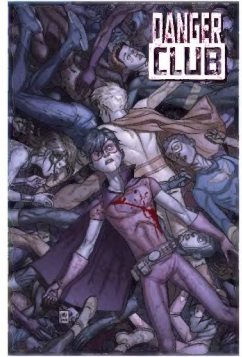
Thanks for reading! See you at Comic-Con!

-Robert Kirkman

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